

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (original) A process for preparing a supported catalyst or catalyst precursor containing carbon, said process comprising:
  - a. preparing a liquid mixture of (i) at least one catalyst support or catalyst support precursor; (ii) at least one metal-containing compound, wherein said metal is selected from V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Mo and W, and (iii) at least one polar organic compound which acts as a solvent for the metal-containing compound, said liquid mixture comprising 0 to 20 wt% of water based on the total weight of the mixture;
  - b. converting said mixture to a paste or solid residue; and
  - c. combusting the residue in an oxygen-containing atmosphere to at least partially convert the organic compound to carbon and to form said supported catalyst or catalyst precursor.
2. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the polar organic compound is liquid at 20°C.
3. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the polar organic compound is solid at 20°C and the liquid mixture is formed by melting the polar organic compound.
4. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 in which the liquid mixture comprises a solid catalyst support and the metal-containing compound dissolved in the polar organic compound.
5. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the catalyst support precursor is dissolved in said liquid mixture and forms the support during the heating and/or the combustion step.
6. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the liquid mixture comprises water.

7. (previously presented) A process for preparing a supported catalyst or catalyst precursor containing carbon, said process comprising:
  - a. preparing a mixture of (i) at least one porous catalyst support and (ii) at least one organic compound in a solvent, said mixture comprising 0 to 20 wt% of water based on the total weight of the mixture;
  - b. removing the solvent such that the organic compound is deposited in the pores of the catalyst support;
  - c. mixing the catalyst support with a solution of at least one metal-containing compound and removing the solvent to form a solid residue or kneading or mechanical mixing the catalyst support with at least one metal-containing compound, wherein said metal is selected from V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Mo and W; and
  - d. combusting the resultant solid in an oxygen-containing atmosphere to at least partially convert the organic compound to carbon and to form said supported catalyst or catalyst precursor.
8. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, which further comprises incorporating a metal-containing promoter or modifier, wherein the metal is at least one of Zr, U, Ti, Th, Hf, Ce, La, Y, Mg, Ca, Si, Cs, Rb, Mo, W, Cr, rare earth metals and noble metals.
9. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the polar organic compound is an organic amine, amide, urea, an organic carboxylic acid, an alcohol, an amino acid, a heteroaromatic compound or a surfactant.
10. (original) A process according to claim 9 wherein the polar organic compound is urea, a citrate or citric acid.
11. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the final catalyst or catalyst precursor support is an oxide, carbide, oxycarbide, zeolite, or boronnitride.
12. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 where the combustion is carried out for 15 minutes or less.

13. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the combustion is carried out in air.
14. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 where the combustion is carried out at a temperature of from 150 to 1000°C.
15. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 where the catalyst or catalyst precursor before activation comprises carbon in an amount of up to 8 wt% based on the total weight of the catalyst or catalyst precursor.
16. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the catalyst or catalyst precursor is a Fischer-Tropsch synthesis, hydrotreating, hydrocarbon partial oxidation, steam reforming or carbon dioxide reforming catalyst or catalyst precursor.
17. (original) A process for carrying out a Fischer-Tropsch synthesis, hydrotreating, hydrocarbon partial oxidation, steam reforming or carbon dioxide reforming reaction, which comprises catalysing said reaction with a catalyst prepared by a process as defined in claim 15.
18. (original) A Fischer-Tropsch synthesis catalyst or catalyst precursor comprising, on an inert support,
  - i) 10 to 40 wt% cobalt, nickel or a mixture thereof;
  - ii) 1 to 10 wt% at least one promoter selected from zirconium, uranium, titanium, thorium, hafnium, cerium, lanthanum, yttrium, magnesium, calcium, strontium, cesium, rubidium, molybdenum, tungsten, chromium, manganese, and rare earth elements; and
  - iii) carbon in an amount of up to 8 wt%;the above percentages being based on the total weight of the supported catalyst.
19. (original) A steam reforming catalyst or catalyst precursor comprising, on an inert support,
  - i) 0.1 to 30 wt.% cobalt, nickel or a mixture thereof;
  - ii) 0 to 10 wt.% of at least one promoter selected from sodium, potassium, uranium, titanium, thorium, hafnium, cerium, lanthanum, yttrium, magnesium, calcium,

strontium, cesium, rubidium, molybdenum, tungsten, chromium, manganese and rare earth elements; and

iii) carbon in an amount of up to 4 wt.%;

the above percentages being based on the total weight of the Supported catalyst.

20. (new) A process according to claim 7, which further comprises incorporating a metal-containing promoter or modifier, wherein the metal is at least one of Zr, U, Ti, Th, Hf, Ce, La, Y, Mg, Ca, Si, Cs, Rb, Mo, W, Cr, rare earth metals and noble metals.
21. (new) A process according to claim 7 wherein the organic compound is an organic amine, amide, urea, an organic carboxylic acid, an alcohol, an amino acid, a heteroaromatic compound or a surfactant.
22. (new) A process according to claim 21 wherein the organic compound is urea, a citrate or citric acid.
23. (new) A process according to claim 7 wherein the final catalyst or catalyst precursor support is an oxide, carbide, oxycarbide, zeolite, or boronnitride.
24. (new) A process according to claim 7 where the combustion is carried out for 15 minutes or less.
25. (new) A process according to claim 7 wherein the combustion is carried out in air.
26. (new) A process according to claim 7 where the combustion is carried out at a temperature of from 150 to 1000°C.
27. (new) A process according to claim 7 where the catalyst or catalyst precursor before activation comprises carbon in an amount of up to 8 wt% based on the total weight of the catalyst or catalyst precursor.
28. (new) A process according to claim 7 wherein the catalyst or catalyst precursor is a Fischer-Tropsch synthesis, hydrotreating, hydrocarbon partial oxidation, steam reforming or carbon dioxide reforming catalyst or catalyst precursor.